



The Town Crier

City of Algona

NOVEMBER 2014

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING - WAFFLE PARK

SUNDAY DECEMBER 7th - 6 PM

Join us for our 3rd Annual Holiday Tree lighting at Waffle Park. Entertainment will be provided and refreshments will be supplied. Come join in the fun and get the holiday spirit started.

RATE INCREASES

Due to escalated rates for the purchase of water, as well as King County sewer increases, residential utility rates are expected to rise. Water rates are expected to increase 10%, sewer rates are expected to increase 12%, and storm water rates are expected to increase \$2.00. New rates will begin January 2015. Commercial/Industrial rates have increased as well.

PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Beginning 2015, payment arrangements will only be accepted **once during a 12 month period**. Unfortunately, due to the increasing amount of past due accounts, it has become necessary to enforce this policy. It is not our intent to create a hardship, however, it is important to maintain accounts in good standing to avoid possible liens and/or collection procedures.

PUBLIC HEARING—COMP PLAN UPDATE & CRITICAL AREAS ORDINANCE

The Planning Commission for the City of Algona will conduct a public hearing on Thursday, November 13th, at 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers of Algona City Hall located at 402 Warde Street to discuss the update to the Comprehensive Plan as well as the Critical Areas Ordinance. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jeff Tate at planner@algonawa.gov or at 253-931-3090.

Fact:

Keeping pollutants out of the water isn't just a good idea - it's the law. The Washington State Water Pollution Control Law (RCW 90.48) and the King County Code (KCC 9.12) prohibit the discharge of pollutants to the storm drainage system, surface water and groundwater. Direct dumping of material or polluted stormwater can negatively affect every water body it enters.

Algona City Council

Bill Thomas
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The Algona City Council meets the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of City Hall

The Council conducts workshop sessions the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers of City Hall

All meetings of the City Council are open to the public

Council Meetings
2nd & 4th Tuesday

Visit our website at:
www.algonawa.gov



Fall is among us and so is the weather. Please exercise extra caution when driving. The oil and rain on the roadway make it more dangerous when braking and accelerating. Give yourself more time to travel and more distance to stop. Pedestrians should be wearing brighter clothes and be aware that they are less visible to drivers due to weather, overcast, and being darker outside. Your safety is our concern. We want you to be safe in our community.

Chief Lee Gaskill

APAC Community Forum on Groundwater and the Algona Plume

The Algona Public Awareness Coalition (APAC), a partnership of Futurewise and Home Town Community Services, has been working with the community related to the groundwater pollution that is under part of northeastern Algona.

Site Update

Over the summer, the WA Department of Ecology oversaw the installation of 12 new monitoring wells and 14 temporary wells in Algona. The addition of these wells is meant to provide more data for the ongoing investigation. Samples collected from the most recent round of drilling found low levels of contaminants in the shallow and intermediate groundwater in parts of northeastern Algona. According to the WA Department of Health, the contamination is not a health risk to residents. More information can be found at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/CleanupSites/boeing-fabn/WhatsNew.html>.

APAC Update

APAC has participated in community events such as the 1st Annual Kid's Fishing Derby, Algona Days, and S'mores 'N More Family Night. We have also been out talking to neighbors who live above or near the plume. APAC is now working to provide the community with answers to questions and address concerns through informational fact sheets and other resources.

Community Forum

On Wednesday November 19th, APAC is hosting a Community Forum to provide residents with a greater understanding about local groundwater and an update on the investigation. We are excited to announce that Dr. Peter deFur, a nationally recognized expert on human health and environmental risk, will be joining us at the event to give a presentation about groundwater. The WA Department of Ecology and Public Health-Seattle & King County will then be providing updates on the investigation. We will have FREE childcare and refreshments in order to best accommodate all community members who wish to attend. This event is for you, the Algona Community, and we hope you will join us!

WHEN: Wednesday, November 19th

TIME: Doors open 6 PM, event starts at 6:30 PM

WHERE: Alpac Elementary School Gym, 310 Milwaukee Blvd N, Pacific, WA 98047

FOOD: Light refreshments

CHILDCARE: Free on-site childcare provided by the Auburn Valley YMCA

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact Jeanette Ordonez at jeanette@futurewise.org or call 253-347-0460.



Mayor's Message

60 Years

Algona was incorporated in 1955, making 2015 our 60th anniversary, also known as the diamond anniversary. We will be having events throughout the year celebrating this event. Watch the reader board in Waffle Park and this monthly newsletter for information on events.

8 Years

I have had the honor of serving as Algona's Mayor for 8 years. I was appointed by the City Council to serve the remainder of Mayor Joe Scholz's term when he moved out of town. I was then elected in November 2007 and re-elected in November 2011. We have accomplished many changes in the 8 years. Algona has an exceptional and dedicated team working to make Algona the "Best Small City in Puget Sound"! (I change between King County, Puget Sound, Western Washington and State depending on the occasion!) There have been more changes than we can discuss, but it is the professionalism of each and every employee and volunteer that makes Algona shine!

Audit Report

The Washington State Auditor just completed an audit of three years (2011, 2012, and 2013) of Algona. Their report is online and has no adverse findings. In fact, when I met with the audit team, they were highly complementary regarding the condition and accuracy of our accounting system. You may access the report at www.sao.wa.gov/ and search for Algona. We will also have a copy available at City Hall.

Utility Bills

Algona operates three enterprise funds (water, sewer, and storm water) which comprise our monthly "water bill". State law requires that each fund be separately accounted for and that they be self-supporting. What does this mean? It means that each of these funds have to have enough money to pay for repairs and maintenance as well as any improvements (capital expenses). All three funds do not have enough money to support themselves. We pay for sewer services to King County, who have increased prices we pay. We have to pass through the increase from King County plus enough to pay for our capital expenses and current repairs and maintenance. A lot of Algona has old sewer lines that are in need of replacement, so we need to build up the money to pay for the replacement. We all know we do not want to have a broken sewer line in front of our house!! This means that your monthly cost of sewer will be increasing next year. We buy all of our water from Auburn, and they are raising prices. We also face the same issue with water as we face with sewer, so they will also be going up next year. The storm water fund is our own fund and needs to be increased to meet future needs. We need to build it up to cover anticipated costs of managing storm water and hopefully avoid localized flooding. This increase in storm water will amount to less than \$25 a year. This has not been an easy decision. Every City Council member and I have to pay the same bill as any other resident every month. We are all acutely aware of the impact on monthly budgets. There is no viable alternative to increasing the cost. We will also be making less payment arrangements since this takes money out of the system. However, we will be reading meters on a monthly basis, which will help "smooth" the bill for those residents that use larger amounts of water. It will also help us detect leaks quicker, reducing costs to residents and the city.

Algona City Staff

ADMINISTRATION (253) 833-2897

David E. Hill
Mayor
mayor@algonawa.gov

Diana Quinn
City Administrator/
Clerk Treasurer

Laurie Ulrich
Deputy City Clerk/Treas

Ken Faucher
Certified Permit Technician/Customer
Service Clerk

Julie Knauss
Clerical Assistant

Kevin Caviezel
Event Coordinator/Economic Dev

POLICE DEPARTMENT Non Emergency (253) 852-2121

Lee Gaskill
Interim Police Chief

James Schrimpsner
Sergeant

Gil Lenger
James McKay
Terry Carter
Rich Tison
Mike Armstrong
Brian Bard
Terbinos Gebremariam
Police Officers

PUBLIC WORKS (253) 833-2741

Jimmy Griess
Public Works Director

Salvador Marez
John Zanoni
Noah St. Martin
Utility Workers

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM





NOVEMBER 2014

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2	3	4	5 Curbside Cleanup	6 Curbside Cleanup Council Workshop 6 PM Council Meeting 7 PM	7	8
9	10	11 City Hall Closed Veteran's Day	12	13 Planning Commission 6:30 PM	14	15
16	17 Penalties posted for past due Sept bills & notices mailed	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Council Workshop 6 PM Council Meeting 7 PM	26	27 City Hall Closed Thanksgiving Holiday	28 City Hall Closed Thanksgiving Holiday	29
30	DEC 1 Disconnect notices for past due Sept Bills	DEC 2	DEC 3 Water shut off for past due Sept bills	DEC 4	DEC 5	DEC 6

